

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 537

By Sands

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ms. Lynnette Cole upon being crowned "Miss USA 2000".

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those persons who, through their personal efforts, have distinguished themselves as outstanding Tennesseans of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, through their special endeavors, these sterling individuals are credits to their respective families, communities, and to this state as they piece together the enduring fabrics that comprise the grand tapestry of the United States; and

WHEREAS, one such superlative person is Lynnette Cole, who was recently crowned as "Miss USA 2000"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to receiving this prestigious title, Lynne was awarded a Miss USA crown, a scholarship, and many other wonderful prizes; and

WHEREAS, at the national pageant, Ms. Cole competed against forty-nine other state winners, in addition to contestants from Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, in the areas of interview, swimsuit, rapid-fire question-and-answer press conference, and evening wear; and

WHEREAS, after a week of a flurry of activities and preliminary competitions, Ms. Cole was selected as one of the Top Ten contestants, who were later narrowed down to the Top Five contestants, and finally she was chosen as "Miss USA 2000"; and

WHEREAS, on May 12 of this year, Lynne Cole will represent the United States and compete against many women from all over the world for the title of "Miss Universe"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cole's noteworthy achievement is a great source of pride for her parents, her community, and her state; and

WHEREAS, attending Columbia Academy since fifth grade, Lynne was very active in many school activities during her high school years; she was a member of the Junior Civitan Club, Library Club, Drama Club, and Science Club, and was selected by her fellow classmates as a homecoming attendant for two years; and

WHEREAS, aside from the hectic schedule that she maintains as Miss USA, Lynne Cole still finds time to work as a substitute teacher for grades K-6 at her alma mater, Columbia Academy, while maintaining a lucrative modeling career and taking classes at Columbia State Community College via telecourse; and

WHEREAS, perhaps as a result of her active community service as a motivational speaker for underprivileged children, Lynne aspires to one day become an attorney specializing in family law; and

WHEREAS, while working at her first modeling job at Castner Knott Department Store, Ms. Cole first began to enter beauty contests in 1993. Since then, she has gone on to be crowned Tennessee Teen World, Mule Day Queen for Columbia's Mule Day, Miss Mid Tennessee Teen USA, Tennessee Teen USA, Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Queen, Miss Tennessee All American, Miss Tennessee, and Miss USA; and

WHEREAS, she is a successful model for the Elite Modeling Agency in Atlanta, traveling all over the country and the world and appearing in *TEEN Magazine*, *Cosmopolitan – South Africa*, *WWD Dallas*, *WWD Chicago*, *Peachtree Magazine – Atlanta*, and *Atlanta Magazine*; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cole is also the recipient of several other prestigious awards, including 1995 Miss Teen USA Photogenic Winner and the AMTC award at the Millie Lewis winter convention; and

WHEREAS, she has displayed tremendous athletic ability as a talented cheerleader, basketball, tennis, and volleyball player, and track athlete at Columbia Academy; and

WHEREAS, as a member of Columbia Academy's volleyball team for four years, Lynne won numerous awards, including Regional MVP, Most Valuable Player, and District Player of the Year, in addition to being named to the All District and All Regional teams. As a star basketball player for two years, Lynne was awarded the Hustle Award and named to the All Tournament Team; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cole epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, endeavoring to lead an exemplary Christian life, Lynne faithfully worships the Lord as an active member of West 7<sup>th</sup> Street Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Lynne Cole's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Lynne Cole for her achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Ms. Lynnette Cole upon being named "Miss USA," applaud her meritorious service to the state of Tennessee, and extend to her our best wishes in the Miss Universe Pageant and for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.